

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 L-01 INR-05 PM-03 SP-02

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APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EB/MA:RBANKS

EUR/SOV:JTREICHEL

C-WSHINN

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R 280100Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204799

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, OCLR, HU

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN SHIPS/U.S. PORTS

REF: BUDAPEST 2695

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ARMITAGE

1. WE ARE BASICALLY SYMPATHETIC TO REDUCING THE RESTRICTIONS, UNDER OUR PORT SECURITY PROGRAM, WHICH ARE PLACED ON CALLS BY HUNGARIAN VESSELS TO OUR PORTS. SO FAR THE RESTRICTIONS (14-DAY REQUEST THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS) HAVE NO KNOWN VALUE SINCE GOH VESSELS HAVE NOT BEEN CALLING AT U.S. PORTS, BUT THIS COULD CHANGE. MORE LENIENT PROCEDURES (4 FULL WORKING DAYS REQUEST, AGENT TO COAST GUARD) HAVE GRADUALLY BEEN ADOPTED FOR POLAND AND ROMANIA. A
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DIFFERENT SYSTEM, PLACING EMPHASIS ON PORT-FOR-PORT

RECIPROCITY, APPLIES TO SOVIET VESSELS.

2. FOR REASONS MAINLY EXTERNAL TO U.S./HUNGARIAN RELATIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO DISCUSS PORT SECURITY. THE NEXT U.S./ SOVIET MARITIME AGREEMENT, WHICH INVOLVES OUR PORT SECURITY PROGRAM, IS BEING NEGO-

TIATED, AS IS A MARITIME AGREEMENT WITH ROMANIA. WE DO NOT WISH AT THIS SAME TIME TO BE INVOLVED IN INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION ON THE HUNGARIAN RESTRICTIONS, EVEN THOUGH THE GOH MAY TREAT US SOMEWHAT LESS DISCRIMINATORILY (BUDAPEST 247,324, AND 482-1974) AND HAVE ONLY A FEW TRAMP SHIPS.

3. ANOTHER SHORT-TERM CONSIDERATION IS THE CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE, AND ATTENDANT PUBLICITY, OF OUR GRAIN SALES TO THE USSR. THE LOADING OF SHIPS CARRYING GRAIN BOUND FOR THE USSR HAS BEEN HAMPERED BY MARITIME UNIONS, AND THE ISSUES OF OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. VESSEL OPERATORS IN NON-MARKET STATES AS WELL AS CONDUCT OF BLOC VESSELS IN U.S TRADES HAVE AGAIN BEEN RAISED.

4. WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONSIDER TREATMENT FOR HUNGARIAN VESSELS SIMILAR TO THAT NOW ACCORDED POLISH AND ROMANIAN ONES. EXTENSION OF SUCH TREATMENT TO ALL BLOC STATES BASED ON RECIPROCITY AND QUID PRO QUO HAS BEEN THE INTENTION OF DEPARTMENT SINCE 1973 WHEN POLISH RELAXATION TOOK PLACE. WE WILL KEEP THIS "MINI-ISSUE" IN MIND FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, CARGO SHIPS, ACCESS TO PORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE204799
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DNMILLER/FDR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750297-0645
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975089/aaaaahcs.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 75 BUDAPEST 2695
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUNGARIAN SHIPS/U.S. PORTS
TAGS: EWWT, OCLR, PFOR, HU
To: BUDAPEST
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006